

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A substrate covered at least partially with a layered coating, said layered coating comprising:

an intermediate coating and a hard carbon coating, ~~characterised in that~~  
said intermediate coating comprising: ~~comprises~~:

- a first metal layer deposited on the substrate, said first metal layer comprising at least one element of group IVB, group VB or group VIB;
- a nitride layer deposited on said first metal layer, said nitride layer comprising at least one nitride of an element of group IVB, group VB or group VIB;
- a second metal layer deposited on said nitride layer, said second metal layer comprising at least one element of group IVB, group VB or group VIB;
- a transition layer deposited on said second metal layer, said transition layer comprising at least one carbide of an element of group IVB, group VB or group VIB,

wherein said hard carbon coating comprises a diamond-like nanocomposite (DLN) coating.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A substrate according to claim 1, wherein ~~whereby~~ said hard carbon coating comprises a layered structure of diamond-like carbon (DLC) and diamond-like nanocomposite (DLN) coatings.

5. (Currently Amended) A substrate according to claim 1, wherein ~~whereby~~ said hard carbon coating is doped with a transition metal and/or with an inert gas.

6. (Currently Amended) A substrate according to claim 1, wherein ~~whereby~~ said first metal layer comprises Ti or Cr.

7. (Currently Amended) A substrate according to claim 1, wherein ~~whereby~~ said nitride layer comprises TiN or CrN.
8. (Currently Amended) A substrate according to claim 1, wherein ~~whereby~~ said second metal layer comprises Ti or Cr.
9. (Currently Amended) A substrate according to claim 1, wherein ~~whereby~~ said transition layer comprises  $Ti_xC_y$  or  $Cr_xC_y$ .
10. (Currently Amended) A substrate according to claim 1, wherein ~~whereby~~ said first metal layer and said second metal layer have a thickness between 0.001 and 1  $\mu m$ .
11. (Currently Amended) A substrate according to claim 1, wherein ~~whereby~~ said nitride layer has a thickness between 0 and 5  $\mu m$ .
12. (Currently Amended) A substrate according to claim 1, wherein ~~whereby~~ said transition layer has a thickness between 0.001 and 1  $\mu m$ .
13. (Currently Amended) A substrate according to claim 1, wherein ~~whereby~~ the adhesion of said layered coating expressed by means of the Rockwell C test is better than HF2.
14. (Currently Amended) A substrate according to claim 1, wherein ~~whereby~~ the adhesion of said layered coating expressed by means of the critical load to obtain delamination is higher than 35 N.
15. (Currently Amended) A substrate according to claim 1, wherein ~~whereby~~ said layered coating has a hardness of at least 10 GPa.
16. (New) A substrate according to claim 1, wherein the diamond-like nanocomposite coating comprises interpenetrating networks of a-C:H and a-Si:O.
17. (New) A substrate according to claim 16, wherein the diamond-like nanocomposite coating comprises 30-70 at% C, 20-40 at% H, 5-15 at% Si, and 5-15 at% O.